Oklahoma Chess Monthly

JULY 2021

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Crowded Again!

In This Issue:

• 76th Oklahoma Open Report
• OCA Elections
• IM Donaldson Book Review
• Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

76th OKLAHOMA OPEN:

Open in More Ways Than Usual

by Tom Braunlich

The official state championship for 2021 blasted off in mostly-maskless, non-socially-distanced form despite a rowdy crowd of 94 players and a lot of pent-up desire for some good 'real' chess action on June 26-27, in Broken Arrow, at the Stoneycreek Conference Center.

NM Howard Zhong (2307) won in come-from-behind fashion with 4½ points, defeating NM Ryan Amburgy who had gone into the final round with a 4-0 score. Despite needing only a draw for the title, Ryan played aggressively, sacrificing a pawn for activity; but Howard won in the end. Zhong annotates the game for us, below.

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Amburgy (left) vs Zhong. Behind is James Yanik (left) playing David Zelnick. Both key games are annotated here. (Photo by Cheng Zhong).

Zhong's route to the title was also unusual in that he was a re-entry – something I'd never done before in 5-round events that I directed. He lost in the first round to Paul Covington (1800), who played a great game. Shaun Graham, who had also been upset in round one, asked to do a re-entry (paying an extra entry fee to re-start with a half-point bye for round one). He showed there was precedent for it in OCA events, in fact he'd done it the previous year here. So Howard Zhong then asked to do the same, and both were granted. Howard won four games in a row to score 4½. Although it was allowed I'm going to recommend the OCA board consider whether or not to allow this possibility in future title events.

Tied for 2-6 place with 4 points were Amburgy, Tom Patton, Luke Tran, Jerry Casteel, and newcomer James Yanik.

Special mention needs to be made of James Yanik. I had predicted that there would be a lot of upset results at this tournament, considering that most players would be 'rusty.' But little did I dream that so many would be by the same player! With a rating of only 1491 he beat the top two Arkansas veterans Bill Orton (2214) and Tony Davis (2109), and drew with David Zelnick (2145) in the last round (nearly winning that game).

How did this happen? Yanik, who I believe is going to the University of Tulsa, played a lot of scholastic chess when he was very young, but then didn't play tournaments for 10 years, even though he still followed the game. He returned to tournaments 18 months ago with a seriously undervalued 1200 rating even though he was actually more like Class A strength. His results showed it. But at this tournament he was at a higher level, with a performance rating of 2295! He gained 245 points this event! One of his games is below.

James Yanik. (Photo by Cheng Zhong).

Defending titlist Stephen Gehly also had a good tournament, despite ending up at 3-2. He had a spectacular-though-unsound sacrificial win over NM Bill Orton (see the "Game of the Month"), and his board one rematch with Amburgy in round 4 with both players at 3-0 was a critical game — a replay of last-year's final that Stephen won. This time Ryan won nicely.

The Class A plaque was won by Jerry Casteel, and Aaron Peters won the Class B prize.

Zhong receives prize plaque from Chuck Unruh

Reserve Section

The Under-1600 section was won by Chris Amburgy, one tiebreaks with John Tyler Madsen (of Arkansas), Stuart Flexner-bury, and David Beebe; all with fine 4-1 scores.

Chris Amburgy receives the Reserve Champion prize plaque from Chuck Unruh.

Booster Section

The Under-1600 was populated mostly with young players, as usual, and several of them looked to be quite talented, especially the winner, Havish Kunchanapalli, who went 5-0 in his first over-the-board tournament and earned a 1338 rating.

Havish Kunchanapalli, winner of the Booster section.

His opponent in the last round, **Ananya Wadhwa,** also seems very talented, and both I believe are under 10 years old. **Leo Kim** and **Viraj Singh** finished tied for 2nd place with 4 points; and Singh won the title plaque.

Ananya Wadhwa

COVID RULES

As you can see from the above photo, some Covid rules were still in effect for this event. Players had to sign Covid Release Forms provided by the OCA upon check in. Those players who have had vaccinations were allowed to not wear a mask, but those who had not (mostly kids) were still required to do so. I'm hoping that we will be able to dispense with this at other events later in the year — but the possibility of variants and resurgences in the virus are making those prospects unclear at this time.

The event was organized by Chuck Unruh with help from Rebecca Rutledge, and directed by Tom Braunlich. Assistant director was Harold Brown, with help from Josie Braddy, Paul Covington, and others.

See next page for a selection of games.

Top Row: Stephen Gehly, Paul Covington.
Bottom Row: Tom Patton, Tony Davis.
(Photos by Cheng Zhong.)

Amburgy, Ryan (2206)
Zhong, Howard (2307) [D00]
2021 Oklahoma Open (5), 27.06.2021
[Notes by Howard Zhong]

Coming into this game, Ryan was leading the field by half a point. It was a must win for me.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 a6 4.e3 e6 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Re1 e5 10.Bg3 h6 [I also considered 10...e4 11.Bxd6 exf3 12.Ba3 fxg2 13.Kxg2 Be6, but did not like my weak king.]

11.e4 d4 12.Nd5 0-0 13.Qd2 [13.Bh4!? Be7 14.h3=.*TB*] **Nh5 14.Rad1 Nxg3 15.hxg3 Re8 16.Nh4 Be6 17.a3 b5**

18.Nf5!? [Sacrificing a pawn.] **Bxf5 19.exf5 Bxa3**

I figured the pawn was free, but underestimated the compensation.

20.Be4! Bf8

[Another option I considered was 20...Bxb2 21.f6 Rc8 22.Qe2 g6 even though I'm up two pawns, he has c4 ideas and my pieces are not ready to defend against the kingside attack.]

21.Qe2 Ra7 22.c3 Rd7 23.Qf3

His position is more comfortable, but I still have chances if I activate my pieces.

23...Rd6 24.Kh2 Ne7 25.Nb4 Qb6 26.Nd3?! dxc3 27.bxc3 Qc7 28.Nb4 a5 29.Rxd6 Qxd6 30.Nc6

Because he moved his knight multiple times, I was able to advance my pawn and stabilize my position.

30...Nxc6 31.Bxc6 Rb8 32.Rd1 Qc5 33.Rd7 Rb6 34.Bd5 Rf6 35.Ba2

[35.g4 I expected this because e4 frees up my rook.]

35...e4 36.Qxe4 Qxf5 37.Qxf5 Rxf5 38.f3 Rh5+

I considered 38...h5 as well but having my rook stuck on the f-file makes it hard to win.

39.Kg1 Bc5+ 40.Kf1 Rh1+ 41.Ke2 Rg1 42.Bxf7+ Kf8 43.f4 Rxg2+ 44.Kf3 Rc2 45.Bg6 Rxc3+ 46.Kg4

I was already low on time and didn't have time to calculate which pawn to push. The a-pawn is harder for his bishop to defend.

46...a4 47.Kf5

[47.Rf7+ Ke8 48.Rb7+ Kd8 49.Rxb5 a3 50.Bf7 Ke7 51.Bg8 Kd6 is going to be a slow win for black. — TB.]

47...a3 48.Rf7+ Ke8

I also considered 48...Kg8 but now my king is permanently passive. I had 2 minutes and Ryan had 35 minutes.

49.Ke6 Kd8 50.Bb1 Rxg3 51.Rd7+ Kc8 52.Rd5 Rc3 53.f5 b4 54.Ba2 Kc7 55.Rd7+ Kb6 56.Bd5 Rc2 57.Rxg7 Re2+ 58.Kd7 a2 59.Bxa2 Rxa2 [At this point, all I had to do was make sure to not flag.]

60.Rg6+ Kb5 61.Rg3 Ra6 62.Rf3 Rd6+ 63.Ke8 Bd4 64.Ke7 Rc6 65.Kd7 Rb6 66.Kc7 Rf6 67.Kd7 Kc4 68.Ke7 b3 69.Rf2 Bxf2 70.Kxf6 Bd4+ 71.Kg6 b2 72.f6 Bxf6

0-1

TOP 25

For JULY 2021

Active Oklahoma Players

	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Howard Zhong	2302	-5	
3	Ryan Amburgy	2211	-10	
4	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
5	Mark Hulsey	2190	0	
6	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
7	Veronika Zilajeva	2080	0	
8	Tom Patton	2077	0	
9	Charles D Unruh	2074	11	▲
10	James Long	2054	0	
11	Michael Nugent	2042	0	▲
12	Charles M Unruh	2024	0	▲
13	Matt Dalthorp	2015	0	▲
14	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	▲
15	Stephen Gehly	2000	0	▲
16	David Luscomb	1995	0	▲
17	Logan Zachare	1971	-20	▲
18	Maxwell Barnes	1968	3	▲
19	Wayne Hatcher	1926	0	▲
20	Joe Dean Veal	1925	-15	
21	Harold Brown Jr.	1901	0	▲
22	Oscar Wang	1889	16	▲
23	Chris Dooley	1888	48	▲
24	Adley Bufford	1858	1	▲
25	Maxwell Xie	1839	0	▲

Player of the Month

JAMES YANIK

The newcomer emphatically announced his presence at this month's tournament with many upsets; see story, page 2.

Gehly, Stephen (2000)
Ambury, Ryan (2221) [B15]
76th Oklahoma Open (4.1), 27.06.2021
[Tom B.]

The key fourth-round matchup between the two players at 3-0, and a rematch of last year's final game that went in Gehly's favor.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5 10.0-0

Black's previous move was meant to discourage white from castling. Ryan has played this line for black before -- in his game with Brian Tay at the Charlotte Chess Classic that was *Game of the Month* in the April 2021 issue. See that game for a full discussion of this opening. That game continued with the main line: 10.Be3 Nd7 11.0-0-0 Nf8 12.Kb1 Be6 13.c4

10...h4 11.h3 Nd7 12.Bd2 Nf8 13.Rae1 Bd7

[An interesting GM game went: 13...Bc7N 14.b3 g6 15.Kh1 Qd6 16.Bf4!? The only way to fight for an advantage. 16...Rxe2Đ 17.Bxd6 Rxc2 18.Bxc7 Rd2?! It's not the best move. Black could have played 18...ğxa2 or 18...ğxc3. 19.Re8 Kg7 20.Bd6 Ne6 21.Bb1!? Re2 22.Bd3 Rxa2?! 23.f4 Rd2 24.f5!+- gxf5?? After this mistake White wins easily. 25.Bxf5+- b6 26.Bxe6 fxe6 27.Rf4 f5 28.Rxh4 1-0 Sjugirov,S (2663) - Bai,J (2579) 2018]

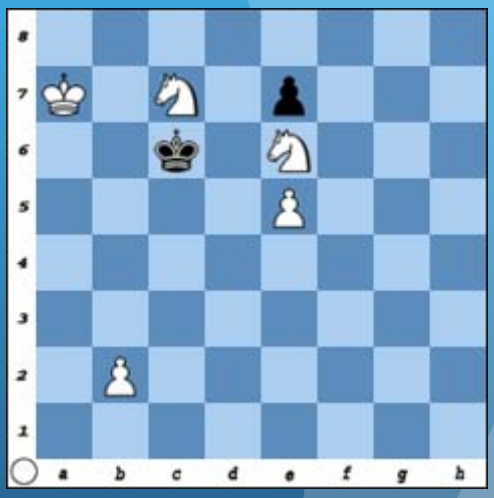
14.Nf4N Qc7

15.Nh5!? [A very interesting move, freezing black's kingside pawns. But later in the game this N gets isolated and the play revolves

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page

WHITE to move and win. (Easy)



WHITE Mate's in Five. (Medium?)

around protecting it.]

15...c5 16.d5 c4 17.Bf5 Re5! [Nice move, exploiting the unfortunate lineup of white units on the 5th rank, particularly targeting the N on h5 which will soon be stuck with no retreat.]

18.Rxe5 Bxe5 19.f4!? [White could extricate the N with 19.Bxd7 Nxd7 20.Qe4 g6 21.Nf4 but Black's pieces then come alive with 21...f5 22.Qf3 Nf6 and d5 is weak.]

19...Bd6 20.Be1! Qc5+ 21.Bf2 Qxd5

22.Rd1? [The computer points out a nice saving variation for White: 22.Nxf6+! gxf6 23.Bxd7 Nxd7 24.Rd1 Qe6 25.Qd2 with a skewer that wins the piece back and produces rough equality.]

22...Qxf5 23.Qxf5 Bxf5 24.Rxd6 Ng6 [24...Bg6 25.Rd5 f5 26.g4 saves the N.]

25.Bd4 Bd3 26.Rd7 b6 27.b4 Be2 28.Rd5 Re8 29.a4 [White still has the poorly placed N on h5 that dooms his position. If 29.g4 hxg3 30.Nxg3 Nxf4 31.Rd7 Nxh3+]

29...Bxh5 30.Rxh5 Re4 [30...Nxf4 31.Rxh4]

31.Rd5 Nxf4 32.Rd8+ Kh7 33.Rc8 Ne2+ 34.Kf2 f5 35.Rxc4 Nxc3 36.Rxc3 Rxd4 37.Rc7 Rxb4 38.Rxa7 Rb3 39.a5 bxa5 40.Rxa5 [and black won.] 0-1

Yanik, James (1491)
Zelnick, David (2135) [C11]
76th Oklahoma Open (4.2), 27.06.2021
[Tom B.]
1.e4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.d4 c5 6.dxc5 Nc6 7.Bf4 Bxc5 8.Bd3 a6 [More common is the complex attempt to destroy white's center immediately with 8...f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.0-0 0-0

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) A beautiful example of geometric tactics: 1. Rg8!! Rxg8 2. Bxd5+ and Bxg8.

(2) This is an example of the "Excelsior" Theme. The lowly pawn wins – but in a spectacular way. Note that Black's king is stuck in a box with only safe squares on c6, d7, and c8. He can't get out of that box. All we have to do to take advantage of that is bring up reinforcements – but the pawn on b2 is the only one available. Can he do it? Yes!
1. b4 Kd7 2. b5 Kc8 3. b6 Kd7 4. b7 Kc6 – all black's moves are forced. And now the tricky finish – 5. b8=N mate!

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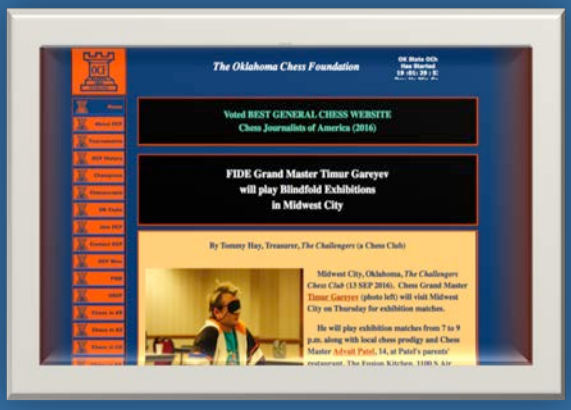
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will play Blindfold Exhibitions
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11.Ne5 Bd7 etc. with a difficult position to play. However, David probably has his own opinion on how to play these lines, and he takes a different approach.]

9.0-0 b5 10.Qe2 [10.a3 might be better.]

10...Be7 [10...Bb7 seems more natural. Black wants to get ...Nc5, a common idea to take out the dangerous B on d3 when necessary before castling.]

11.h4!? [Daring black to take this pawn and give up his good bishop.]

11...Nc5

[The computer says grab the pawn! But 11...Bxh4 12.Nxh4 Qxh4 13.g3 Qe7 14.Qg4 g6 doesn't look very appetizing to the human eye.]

12.h5 b4 13.Nd1 h6 14.Ne3 a5?! [This is a slip that let's white avoid the exchange of B for N on d3 and get some initiative. It seems patient development without castling was better, such as 14...Bb7 15.Rfd1 Qb6 and waiting for white to show his hand.]

15.Bb5! Qb6 16.c4 [Stronger was 16.Nd4! Bd7 17.Bxc6 Bxc6 18.Qg4 and white makes good use of the pawn on h5 to get some initiative. Black probably has to play 18...Kf8 and have an edge, although it is still complicated.]

16...Ba6!? [16...bxc3 17.bxc3 Ba6 equalizes easily, but David no doubt was not satisfied with that against an opponent with such a low rating.]

17.Nd4 Bxb5 18.Nxb5 d4 19.Ng4 Rd8 [19...0-0-0!?]

20.Rad1 [An interesting position. Black has a dangerous d-pawn and well-posted pieces and control of central squares, but his R on h8 is sad and lonely, and needs to get into the game. The obvious move is to simply castle, but that is scary with white's pieces all set to sacrifice on h6. Instead David embarks on a logical but risky plan:

20...Bg5?!

This clever move allows the lonely rook to enter play down the h-file immediately -- at the cost of weakening dark squares and initiating lots of interesting tactics. David probably thought he should be able to outplay his opponent in the coming complications, but James handles it all well and keeps up the pressure.

21.Bxg5 hxg5 22.f4!? Ke7

[22...Rxh5 23.Nf6+ gxf6 24.Qxh5 fxe5 25.fxg5 is winning for white.

So it would make sense to first play 22...d3 23.Qe3 Rxh5 But now the position is very hard to evaluate. My computer gives white a slight edge after this line: 24.Nd6+ Rxd6 25.exd6 Rh4 26.Ne5 gxf4 27.d7+! Kd8 28.Nxf7+ Ke7! 29.Rxf4 Rxf4 30.Qxf4 Nxd7+ 31.Kf1 e5]

23.fxg5 d3 24.Qf2 Nd7

Trading queens, and thus surviving the attack; but the ending is complicated and white still has some initiative.

25.Qxb6 Nxb6 26.Nd6! Rdf8 27.Rxd3

[27.h6 looks strong but after 27...gxh6 28.gxh6 Nd7 the white e-pawn falls and the h-pawn will soon follow apparently. 29.Rxd3 Ndxe5 30.Nxe5 Nxe5 31.Re3 Ng4 etc.]

27...Rxh5 28.Ne4 Rh4 29.Rd6

[The tempting move 29.Nef6 is met by 29...Rd8]

29...Rxg4 30.Rxc6 Nd7 31.Nf2?

[Yanik finally makes a mistake! Stronger is 31.Nf6! Rd4 *(31...gxf6? 32.gxf6+ Kd8 33.Rd1 Re4 34.Rcd6 Rxe5 35.Rxd7+ Kc8 36.Ra7 Kb8 37.Rdd7)* 32.Rd6! Rxd6 33.exd6+ Kd8 34.Nh7! Rh8 35.Rxf7 Rxh7 36.g6 Rh4 37.Rxg7 Rh8

38.c5 and it looks like White is winning.]

31...Rxg5 32.Rc7 Rxe5 33.Rd1 Rd8 34.c5 Ke8! [34...Rxc5? 35.Rdxd7+ Rxd7 36.Rxc5]

35.c6 Nf6 [Black seems to have outplayed his opponent and now has an edge, but that c6-pawn is strong and the players are getting into time pressure.]

36.Rxd8+ Kxd8 37.Rxf7

37...Rc5

[Better was the instructive move 37...Re1+! 38.Kh2 Rf1! Setting up tactics on the f-file. White is forced to play 39.c7+ *(If 39.Kg3? Ne4+* wins*; or 39.Nd3? Ng4+ 40.Kg3 Rxf7)* 39...Kc8 40.Kg3 e5 *(*now ...Ng3+ won't work because white has a fork on d6 after *40...Ne4+ 41.Nxe4 Rxf7 42.Nd6+)* 41.Re7 *(41.Rxg7? Nh5+)* 41...Re1 with winning chances for black.]

38.Rxg7 Rc1+ 39.Kh2 Rxc6 40.Ra7 [Now with equal material and trades of pawn coming you might think it's a dead draw; but no... Knight endings are always very tricky, especially with both players getting below 5 minutes here.]

40...Rc2 41.Nd3 Rd2 42.Nc5 Ng4+? [There is no need to give up the e-pawn so easily. 42...e5 43.Rxa5 Rxb2 44.Nd3 Re2 45.Nxb4 Re3! 46.g3 e4 47.Ra7 Rc3 and black's passed pawn provides enough counterplay to draw.]

43.Kg3 Ne3 44.Nxe6+ Kc8 45.Nf4 Rxb2 46.Rxa5 Nd1? [46...b3 47.axb3 Rxb3 draws easily. Was David trying to win? He wants ...Nc3 to perhaps win that a-pawn.]

47.Nd3 Rd2 48.Nxb4 Ne3 49.Kf3 Nxg2 50.Rc5+ Kb7 51.Rc2?

[51.a4 Rb2 52.Rb5+ Ka8 53.Ke4 is a way to play for a win, mainly because black's N is so far away from the queenside. But it's a little hard to believe it would work since both R endings and N endings are drawn here, and black can also draw by sacking his N for the pawn. But in time trouble this might have been tough for black to do.]

51...Ne1+ 52.Ke3 ½-½

Okie Chris Dooley placed 2nd in the Texas State Championship, Amateur section. Two games:

Steiner, Tim (1820)
Dooley, Chris (1950) [A67]
Texas State Championship 31.05.2021
[Tom B]
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 [Tim Steiner is a former 2100 player from Kansas City who now lives in Dallas.] 2...c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ [One of the most dangerous variations against the Benoni.]8...Nfd7 [Practically forced.] 9.Nf3 a6 10.Bd3 b5 11.a3 0-0 12.0-0 Nf6 13.Kh1 Bg4 14.f5 !? N 14...Nbd7= 15.Bg5 Qb6 16.Qe1 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Rae8 18.Qh4 c4 19.Bc2 a5 20.Rae1 b4 21.axb4 axb4 22.Nd1 Rc8 23.Bh6 Ne5 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.f4 Nd3 26.Re3 Qd4 27.fxg6 hxg6 28.f5 Rh8 29.Qg3 Nxe4 30.Qg2 Rce8 31.Rf4 Nef2+ 32.Nxf2 Qxe3 33.fxg6 Qe1+ 34.Qg1 Nxf4 0-1

Dooley, Chris (1820)
Leos, Christopher Lee (1977)
[B21] Texas State Championship 31.05.2021
[Tom B]
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 d3 [Not a great way to play against the Smith-Morra Gambit, but often recommended anyway.] 4.c4! Nc6 5.Bxd3 d6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bf4 e5 8.Bg5 Be7 9.Nge2 h6 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.Nd5 Be6 12.Nec3 0-0 13.0-0 Nd4 14.Qa4 Bh4 15.f4 f5 16.Qd1 fxe4 17.Bxe4 Qd7 18.Qd2 Rae8 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.Qd3 Bd8 21.Rae1 Bf5 22.b3 Bxe4 23.Qxe4 Rxf1+ 24.Rxf1 a6 25.Qg6 Re6 26.Qg4 Qe8 27.Ne4 Rg6 28.Qc8 Ne2+ 29.Kh1 Nf4 30.Nxf4 exf4 31.Rd1 Qxe4 32.Rxd8+ Kf7 33.Rf8+ 1-0

OCA Membership Meeting Votes in Major New Leadership Changes

At the annual OCA membership meeting, June 27th, a large slate of new members were elected to the OCA board, featuring a wide variety of deep experience in chess promotion and organization — including some recent transplants from other states.

Long-time president Chuck Unruh had said he wanted to step down due to demanding duties as VP of Finance at U.S. Chess; and Treasurer Jim Gray, the last of the group that had led the OCA for the past 15+ years, lost his re-election bid.

The new board is as follows:

President: *Chris Amburgy*. An experienced CEO of a prominent company, as well as an active tournament player with his son Ryan, Chris has leadership credentials. He is also the current president of OSCO.

Vice President: *Harold Brown.* Harold is from Tulsa, retired and returning here after a long legal career in the military and as a federal prosecutor. He is a long-time 1900 player and has been instrumental in rejuvenating the Tulsa chess 'club' scene. He also has been very helpful in getting a free venue for us at the Harvard Ave Baptist Church in Tulsa where we now have a semi-permanent club meeting space.

Starting July 11 he opens a new Tulsa Chess Association club there focused on rated USCF OTB play in quiet surroundings. It will meet Sunday afternoons at 1:30pm. More details below on page 14.

Secretary: *Rebecca Rutledge.* She has been active in promoting chess in the OKC area. She is also the OCA's webmaster, and actually keeps the site updated! A professional editor, she sometimes helps with the OCM. Her son Max Barnes is a top player.

Treasurer: *Jerry Casteel.* He is a recent transplant from South Dakota, a friendly and experienced TD, and a strong Class A player.

Past President: *Chuck Unruh.* Stays on the board in this position.

Member-At-Large #1: *Paul Covington* — A recent transplant from Colorado (retired), now in Claremore. Paul is a Class A player who was very active in Colorado chess organization. He is an experienced TD and a long-time USCF national delegate who is on the Senior Committee there.

Member-At-Large #2: *Joe Veal*. Well known chess coach in OKC who was the previous VP. Expert player and TD.

Member-At-Large **#3:** *Stephen Gehly*. Expert player and previous OCA board member.

OCA Membership Meeting.

Pictured starting at upper right and moving counter-clockwise are: Chuck Unruh, Rebecca Rutledge, Rubin Wells, Shaun Graham, Joe Veal, Jerry Casteel, Stephen Gehly, Bruce Wells, Chris Amburgy, Jim Gray, Harold Brown, and Paul Covington. Not pictured: Chris Dooley and Tom Braunlich.

Gehly, Stephen (2000)
Orton, Bill (2214)
[B42] 76th Oklahoma Open (3.2), 26.06.2021
[Notes by Tom B.]

Proof that fortune favors the brave?

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3 Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7

This defense has for a long time been a specialty of Orton's. He has developed a particular way to play it.

7.Nc3 Nc6 8.0-0

[8.Qe2 d6 9.Be3 Nge7 10.0-0-0 is a more common way of playing this at the GM level for white, neutralizing that Ba7. But I'm sure Bill knows how to play against that...]

8...Nf6 9.Kh1 d6 10.Bg5!?

Since white played Kh1 to get out of the pin on the diagonal, you might now expect him to play 10.f4 The problem with that move is that black hasn't castled yet, and he can start a fierce attack with 10...h5! intending ...Ng4 and ...Qh4, as well as shoving the h-pawn further. Out of 7 games in my database, black won 5 of them. Example: 11.Qe2 Ng4 12.Bd2 Nxh2 and black won in Dubas - Helis, Szczyrk 2014. No doubt Orton was very familiar with that stuff and Gehly did good to avoid it. But his plan also runs into its own problems.

10...h6 11.Bh4 g5 12.Bg3 e5

[All this has been seen before and scores well for black, although one could argue that 12...h5 is even stronger. Example game: 13.Be2 e5 14.h3 Be6 15.Qd2 Rg8 16.Rad1 Nd4 17.Bd3 h4 18.Bh2 g4 19.hxg4 Nxg4 20.Nxd4 exd4 21.Rde1 Qf6 22.Nd1 h3 23.Bg3 hxg2+ 24.Kxg2 Nh2! 0-1 (24) Pogonina,N (2376)-Christiansen,L (2562) Kapuskasing 2003]

13.Nd5?!

[Getting rid of one of black's attacking pieces but losing time. Instead, perhaps 13.Bc4 h5 14.f3 Be6 but I like Black here.]

13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Ne7 15.c4!?

[15.Qh5!? stops ...f5 and dares black to snatch the d-pawn. 15...Nxd5?? 16.Bc4 Be6 17.Bxd5 Bxd5 18.Rad1 Bxb3 19.Bxe5!; Instead, if 15.Qh5 Kf8 (to get out of the pin) 16.Rae1 f5 would have led to a fun game.]

15...Bf5

[15...h5 16.h3 g4 would perhaps be a bit too ambitious for black: 17.f4! gxh3 18.fxe5 hxg2+ 19.Kxg2 with initiative for white.]

16.c5!?

A very creative move by Stephen, undermining the e5-pawn, and the beginning of a wild sequence that goes off the rails.

16...0-0

17.Bxe5!?

Stephen said he knew this was unsound but couldn't stop himself from playing it. That's okay, and as this game proves, fortune favors the brave. The willingness to play wild moves like this is the mark of a creative player and makes chess fun — if you can handle it!

Better was 17.Bxf5 Nxf5 18.Qd3 Nxg3+ 19.fxg3! when white gets the open f-file plus the so-called Seirawan Pawn Structure (g3/g3/h3, white king goes to h2), that is a

tough nut to crack. If black grabs the pawn on c5 white will play d5-d6 and invade on white squares.

17...Bxd3!

[17...dxe5 18.d6 was White's idea, although even that doesn't work well: 18...Bxd3 19.dxe7 Qxe7 20.Qxd3 Bxc5 21.Nxc5 Qxc5 22.Qf5 Qe7 and black is better anyway. But Bill's move seems to refute everything.]

18.Bf6! Bxf1 19.Qh5!

Okay, so white has given up a Rook and Bishop for this. It's easy to say it's unsound, but it is another thing to prove it. White threatens Qxh6 and black's pieces are all scattered and pinned-up. What to do?

19...Kh7

[19...Bxg2+! appears to be best, with the idea that 20.Kxg2? Nxd5! 21.Bxd8 Nf4+ wins.

Instead, 19...Bxg2+ 20.Kg1 has to be played. And then 20...Kh7 comes — similar to what happens in the game, but with a useful extra tempo for black, as you'll see. The computer confirms this line is +3.4 for Black.]

20.Bxg5 f6

Natural, and not bad. But amazingly, 20...Kg8!! is a winning move here. White has nothing better than to repeat the position with 21.Bf6 except that the g-pawn is gone. But black can use the same knight fork trick here to simplify the defense: 21...Bxg2+! 22.Kxg2 Ng6! 23.Bxd8 *(23.Qf5 Nh4+!)* 23...Nf4+ 24.Kf3 Nxh5 25.Be7 Bxc5 26.Bxf8 Kxf8 and black emerges a clear piece up in the ending.

21.Qxh6+ Kg8 22.Nd4!?

[Objectively, 22.Bxf6 was better. After 22...Rxf6 23.Qxf6 Bd3 Black is up two pieces and I thought was winning, but surprisingly when I put this on the computer it says Black only has a narrow edge (-0.63) after 24.Qe6+ Kg7 25.Nd4 Bg6 26.Qg4]

22...Bxg2+

[Note that had Bill played this on move 19 we'd have this position a tempo up for black!]

[22...fxg5?? 23.Ne6; 22...Qe8 is a simple way to win, bringing the Q for defense, even though it loses a piece. But black would still be up a rook!]

23.Kxg2 dxc5

24.Rg1!

Another creative desperation move by Stephen, keeping some serious threats!

[Orton's idea was: 24.Bxf6 Rxf6 25.Qxf6 Qxd5+ 26.Nf3 Rf8 winning easily.]

24...fxg5 25.Kf1

[The threat now for white is Rxg5+.]

25...Rxf2+! 26.Ke1

[26.Kxf2 Qf8+ trades queens with tempo and wins easily.]

26...cxd4??

[26...Qf8 27.Rxg5+ Kf7 28.Qh5+ Kf6 29.Kxf2 cxd4 is one solution that works for black.

But the best is the unexpected check 26...Qa5+! 27.Kxf2 Qd2+ 28.Kg3 Qe3+ 29.Kg2 cxd4 and wins. The black queen holds the g5-pawn and white's king has been forced to block the rook.]

27.Rxg5+ Kf7 28.Qh5+ Kf8??

As often happens, one mistake follows another and now the game is lost for black. Instead: 28...Kf6 29.Qh6+ Kf7 30.Qh5+ =

29.Qh8+ Kf7 30.Rg7+ Kf6 31.Qh6+ Kf5 32.Qe6+ Kf4 33.Rg4+

1-0

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

July 17-18 2021 KANSAS OPEN Lawrence KS

5-SS. G/100;d5. Three Sections. SpringHill Suites, One Riverfront Plaza, Lawrence KS 66044 HR: $129. EF: $55 in advance ONLY. No onsite registration. Blitz and Bughouse tournaments on Friday July 16. Prizes: $2100. For full information see:
http://www.kansaschess.org/htdocs/2021KansasOpenFlierv2.pdf

July 17-18 2021 QUEEN CITY OF THE PRAIRIE OPEN Fort Worth TX

5-SS. For more info see:
https://new.uschess.org/4th-annual-queen-city-prairie-open-fort-worth-championship

July 23-25 2021 2021 U.S. CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP Houston TX

National championship for class sections. For more info see:
https://new.uschess.org/2021-us-class-chess-championships

Aug 7 and Aug 14 STEVE WHARRY CONSAT CLASSIC Tulsa OK

4-SS with two traditional G/90+30 games played on each of two Consecutive Saturdays. Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). Prizes (b/30): Open: 1st-$200, X: $100, A: $100. Reserve: 1st-$125, C: $100, D: $100. Novice: 1st $125. U1000/UNR: $100. More if entries allow. REG: Each day, 9:00-10:15am. Rounds: 10:30am and 3:00pm each day. BYES: Two ½-point byes for either day if you can't make it to one of the game days. Entry Fee: $30 for both days, $20 per day if you can only play one day. Adv. Entries: www.paypal.me/Braunlich or T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson Ave #803, Tulsa OK 74119. Info: tom.braunlich@cox.net LS W. Free coffee and refreshments.

Sep 25-26 TBA OKC OK

A planned one-day rapid event slated for Oklahoma City. Details TBA.

Oct 9 -10 53rd JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL Tulsa OK

5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Tulsa Holiday Inn CITY CENTER, 17 W. Seventh Street, **Tulsa** OK 74119. 918-585-5898. **HR**: $95. **Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice** (U1200). **EF:** $45 if mailed by 10/4, $55 thereafter, with these discounts: $10 off for Seniors over age 60, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). FREE entry for new USChess members or those renewing after 18 months off. **Registration:** 9-9:45am Sat 10/9. **Prizes $$2000** (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/55 paid entries): Open: $500(G)-200, X: 200, A: 175. Reserve **(U1800):** $250(G) C: 175 D: 175, **Novice (U1200):** $200(G), 1000/below: $125. **Rounds:** 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. **Byes**: One 1/2-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. **Adv. Entries:** www.paypal.me/Braunlich or mail T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson Ave.#803 Tulsa OK 74119. **Info:** tom.braunlich@cox.net. Website: ocfchess.org LS W. ***CHECK prior to the tournaments for possible last-minute COVID virus policy changes.**

Nov 13-14 5th FRANK K BERRY MEMORIAL Stroud OK

5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Cattle Country Lodge, 1200 N 8th Ave, Stroud, OK 74079. (Turner Turnpike, Exit 179, then north 200 yards to other side of turnpike.) **HR**: $95. **Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice** (U1200). **EF:** $45 if mailed by 11/9, $55 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). **Registration:** 9-9:45am Sat 11/13. **Prizes $$2200** (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/55 paid entries): Open: $550(G)-250, X: 200, A: 200. Reserve **(U1800):** $250(G) C: 200 D: 200, **Novice (U1200):** $200(G), 1000/below: $150. **Rounds:** 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. **Byes**: One 1/2-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. **Adv. Entries:** www.paypal.me/Braunlich or mail T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson Ave.#803 Tulsa OK 74119. **Info:** tom.braunlich@cox.net. Website: ocfchess.org LS W. ***CHECK prior to the tournaments for possible last-minute COVID virus policy changes.**

Dec 18 Annual Holiday Open ?? OK

4-SS, Rapid Chess. Details TBA

NEW TULSA CHESS CLUB

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For more info: contact tom.braunlich@cox.net

By IM John Donaldson

Two New Training Books by Everyman Chess

The majority of chess books published today are on openings. This trend, based on what most players want but not what they need, is not as lop-sided as it once was. Still, it continues to ignore reality.

Most buyers are club players (1200-2200), but only the upper end of this rating spectrum has any of their games decided by what happens in the first dozen moves. Recognizing this fact, non-professionals should focus on developing fundamental skills and not memorize opening moves. This means learning basic tactical themes and solving thousands of puzzles until the patterns become ingrained. It also means learning fundamental endgames and acquiring a rudimentary knowledge of how to attack and defend. Two new books by Everyman Chess address these needs.

San Diego International Master Cyrus Lakadawala's 2020 book *Rewire Your Chess Brain* (Everyman), is to date one of the most original works of the 21st century. Lakdawala went well beyond the usual puzzle book, using endgames studies and composed problems in his quest to help club players increase their tactical ability.

Rewire Your Chess Brain was a demanding book, appreciated by even Grandmasters. His latest effort, *Tactical Training* (Everyman Chess 2021, www.everymanchess.com, 494 pages, $32.95), is somewhat similarly themed, though aimed front and center at his traditional audience (1600-2200).

In his newest book Lakdawala offers plenty of exercises to solve (over 500), with detailed solutions divided into 32 themes - double attack, pins, forks etc. Each theme is well explained with the author using endgame studies, composed problems and actual games to illustrate his points.

Despite its title, *Tactical Training* also covers basic mating patterns in a way that recalls the old classic *The Art of Checkmate* by Renaud and Kahn, albeit greatly updated with fresh examples.

This is a book than every non-master will benefit from reading.

Over the past few decades English Grandmaster Neil McDonald has quietly developed a reputation for producing quality instructional works for the club player.

His latest book, *Attack! The Subtle Art of Winning Brilliantly* (Everyman Chess 2021, www.everymanchess.com, 368 pages, $29.95) covers one of the fundamental skills in chess. Nigel Short has stated more than once, positional niceties notwithstanding, that the name of the game in chess is to checkmate the enemy king.

A careful study of *Attack*!, which is arranged around well-annotated model games full of interactive questions to engage the reader, will help the diligent student to master this essential skill.

PDF and PGN extracts of both of these books can be found on the Everyman website. These books are available not only as physical books but in a variety of electronic formats.